AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10. Cancelled.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for testing a tray of mail for a contaminant comprising the steps of:

moving the tray of mail along a transport path;

projecting a stop member into the transport path;

moving the tray into the stop member in the transport path, thereby stopping movement of decelerating the tray of mail along the transport path and compressing to compress the mail in the tray, the compression causing matter contained within and on the mail in the tray to become airborne into a surrounding environment of the tray of mail;

collecting a sample from the surrounding environment of the tray of mail; and

analyzing the sample from the surrounding environment to determine if a contaminant may be present;

retracting the stop member from the transport path;

sending the tray of mail to a normal processing path if it is determined a contaminant is not present; and

diverting the tray of mail from the normal processing path if it is determined a contaminant is present.

12. Cancelled.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11 12, wherein before the step of causing the tray is moved into the to hit a stop member the method further comprises:

accelerating movement of the tray along the transport path.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of collecting further comprises:

using a vacuum system to collect the sample.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of analyzing further comprises:

analyzing the sample for an aerosol.

16. Cancelled.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of analyzing further comprises:

analyzing the sample for a specific contaminant.

18. Cancelled.

19. Cancelled.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for testing a tray of mailpieces for a contaminant comprising:

a test chamber;

a transport path to transport the tray of mailpieces through the test chamber;

a stop member located along the transport path, the stop member having a first position in which it is projected into the transport and a second position in which it is retracted from the transport path; and

a detection system to collect and analyze a sample taken from within the test chamber.

a first processing path located downstream of the test chamber; and

a second processing path located downstream of the test chamber,

wherein movement of the tray of mailpieces is stopped decelerated inside the test chamber by the tray of mailpieces making contact with the stop member when the stop member is in the first position, the stoppage of the movement deceleration causing the mailpieces to compress thereby causing matter contained within and on the mailpieces in the tray to become airborne inside the test chamber, and the detection system collects a sample from inside the test chamber and analyzes the sample to determine if a contaminant may be present in the matter contained within and on the mailpieces, the stop member moves to the second position and the tray of mailpieces is sent to the first processing path if it is determined a contaminant is not present and to the second processing path if it is determined a contaminant is present.

21. (Original) The system according to claim 20, wherein the detection system further comprises:

a detection unit to detect contaminants; and

a vacuum to draw the sample from inside the test chamber to the detection unit.

22. (Original) The system according to claim 21, wherein the detection unit analyzes the sample for an aerosol.

23. (Original) The system according to claim 21, wherein the detection unit analyzes the sample for a particular contaminant.

24. (Original) The system according to claim 20, wherein the transport path accelerates the tray of mailpieces before making contact with the stop member.